

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/813,166

Examiner

Nikita Wells

Applicant(s)

HIRANO ET AL.

Art Unit

2881

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to "Amendment" received 22 December 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-10 and 12-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                 | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

Nikita Wells  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2881

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 7-10 and 12-17 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Applicant amended claims 7-10 and 12, canceled claims 1-6 and 11, added new claims 13-17, and presented arguments in favor of allowance of the amended claims according to the "Amendment" received December 22, 2005. With respect to the amended independent claim 7 and the newly added independent claim 13, the Applicant demonstrated to the Examiner's satisfaction that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection over the primary reference of Shiokawa et al. (6,590,205 B2) is no longer applicable to the Applicant's invention. Shiokawa et al., as well as any other prior art, fail to disclose, in combination with other recited features of the claim limitations, an ion attachment mass spectrometry apparatus causing positively charged metal ions to attach to analyte molecules to be measured in an attachment region to generate attached ions and then performing mass spectrometry on said attached ions by a mass spectrometer, comprised of: a metal ion emitter for emitting said metal ions to said attachment region, an introduction unit for introducing said analyte molecules into said attachment region, means for inhibiting attachment of said metal ions to one or more groups of molecules in said attachment region, and a mass spectrometer for performing said mass spectrometry. The key element that is missing from the prior art is the means for inhibiting attachment of said positively charged metal ions to one or more groups of molecules in said attachment region.

The 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection of claims 7-10 and 12 has been overcome since these claims have been amended incorporating the “means for inhibiting the attachment of said metal ions to one or more groups of molecules”.

Therefore, the independent claims 7 and 13 are allowed. The dependent claims 8-10, 12 and 17 are allowed by virtue of their dependence upon claim 7. The dependent claims 14-16 are allowed by virtue of their dependence upon claim 13.

### ***Conclusion***

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nikita Wells whose telephone number is (571) 272-2484. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, John R Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2477. The central fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nikita" and the last name "Wells" clearly distinguishable.

Nikita Wells, Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2881  
February 16, 2006